MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 OCTOBER 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Offensive — Iranian forces launched a new offensive against Iraqi positions in the Kurdish border area north of Marivan and south of Baneh, Iran stated in military communiques and announcements broadcast by Tehran radio. The reports claimed that Iranian forces captured 100 square km of mountainous Iraqi territory, killed or wounded more than 2,000 Iraqis, captured 316 prisoners, destroyed 20 tanks, and shot down 3 enemy helicopters. The Iranian attack — a combined operation under the command of the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters — also struck at "counterrevolutionaries" in the Kurdish border area, "purging" 48 villages of the rebels, who reportedly suffered more than 150 casualties and were forced to retreat deep into Iraq.

On the other hand, a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said the Iraqi I Army Corps defeated the enemy offensive, thwarting the Iranian attempt to capture the Iraqi border town of Panjwin. The communique said aircraft struck hard at Iranian units, and an Iraqi military spokesman cited by the radio subsequently announced that Iranian losses included 1,500 men killed and 10 tanks destroyed. The Iraqis launched a counterattack early on 21 October and recaptured some heights from the enemy, according to INA. However, Tehran radio claimed that the Iranians "totally crushed" the Iraqi counteroffensive.

Commenting on the new offensive, INA warned Iran that it will not be able to establish a foothold in Iraqi Kurdistan because both the Iraqi Army and 70,000 Kurdish volunteers are ready to confront the invaders. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service called on the "children of 'Ali and Hoseyn" in Iraq to overthrow the Saddam Husayn regime.

Iranian Reaction to U.S. Statements — Reacting to statements by U.S. leaders on the possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said President Reagan's attempts to intimidate Iran will have no effect on its morale and determination, Tehran radio reported. He added that if the United States formally abandons its neutrality in the war, this will have little effect since Iran considers that the United States is already supporting Iraq.

Lebanon

Dialogue in Geneva — Switzerland has agreed to allow the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference to take place in Geneva, the Swiss charge d'affaires in Beirut announced in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio on 21 October. Nevertheless, organizational problems, including a shortage of accommodation in Geneva, must be settled before the talks begin, according to Bern radio. Switzerland's confirmation of its willingness to host the dialogue followed a Syrian official announcement that Geneva would be the venue, Paris radio noted. Earlier, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, Saudi envoy Rafiq al-Hariri confirmed that "all parties" had agreed on the venue while Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim said the meeting would be held in a "friendly" state.

In another development, Syria's *Tishrin* reported that the United States intends to "freeze" the Israeli-Lebanese agreement before the dialogue meeting in order to avoid debate during the talks, according to Beirut radio.

Security Situation — The Lebanese Army again came under fire in southern Beirut and in Suq al-Gharb, Beirut radio reported. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio claimed that the Lebanese National Resistance inflicted casualties on an IDF patrol in an ambush near An-Nabatiyah. Earlier, the IDF spokesman confirmed that two Israeli border policemen were killed in an ambush near Sidon late on 18 October, ITIM reported.

Decree on Parties — The government has issued a decree banning the formation of any political party with foreign connections, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

PLO Affairs

A Fatah spokesman in Kuwait announced that the PLO leadership in Tripoli, Lebanon, has agreed to the "positive principles" in the reform program recently proposed by the PFLP-DFLP joint command, KUNA reported. In other developments, Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, held talks with Jordanian King Husayn while Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf met with PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, according to Amman and Aden radios. Khalaf also met with PFLP Secretary General George Habash during his visit to Aden, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio noted. According to Radio Monte Carlo, Habash called on 'Arafat to leave Tripoli because his presence there is preventing the PLO leadership from resuming work.

Jordan

Comment on Israel's 'Propaganda' — Israel is launching a propaganda campaign to cast doubt about Jordan and undermine its pan-Arab stands prior to the forthcoming Arab summit conference, *Sawt ash-Sha'b* declared in an editorial reviewed by Amman radio. The paper cited as examples Israel's "allegations" about a special Jordanian force for use in the Gulf as well as Israeli reports that the United States intends to persuade Jordan to cooperate with Israel as part of a new U.S. peace plan. However, any U.S. plan that ignores the Arab commitment to resolve the Palestine issue will be "imaginary," *Sawt ash-Sha'b* stated. Affirming that Jordan is working for the Arab nation and not for the United States, the paper called on the Arab summit to define a collective Arab defense strategy against all foreign interference in the Gulf and other Arab territories.

Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv paper *Ma'ariv* noted that Israel has reiterated its opposition to the U.S. intention to establish a Jordanian rapid deployment force.

MENA in Amman — MENA will open an office in Amman on 1 November, *Sawt ash-Sha'b* reported.

Oman

PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian arrived in Muscat at the start of a 3-day official visit, XINHUA reported.

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Reportage on Recent Mujahidin Operations

MIG Downed in Qonduz

LD202145 Riyadh SPA in English 1929 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 20, SPA — A Soviet MIG aircraft was shot down by the mujahideen's ground fire on September 28 in Afghanistan's northern Qonduz Province, bordering the Soviet Union, AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported here today.

The agency said the MIG became the target of the mujahideen antiaircraft fire while engaging in aerial bombing over mujahideen hideouts.

The plane crashed near Taza-Naqi village in Qonduz and its two Soviet crew were killed, it added.

Thirteen Soviet and eighteen Afghan Government troops were killed by mujahideen in a number of operations carried out during the last week of September in Qonduz Province, the agency said.

It added that 14 Afghan civilians became the victims of the Soviet aerial bombing in the province during the same period.

Parcham Activists Killed

BK211038 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, nine Soviet-Karmal soldiers are reported to have been killed and two tanks damaged in an attack by the mujahidin in (Guldera) District last week. Eight activists of the Parcham party were also killed. Reports further say that two high-ranking officers of the Afghan intelligence service, KHAD, have also been killed by the freedom fighters.

Bulgarian Delegation Arrives To Participate in Seminar

LD210743 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Kabul, October 20, BAKHTAR — A delegation of the National Fatherland Front of the People's Republic of Bulgaria headed by Vanka Ivanova, member of the executive committee of the FROVO, has arrived in Kabul. [name, organizations as received]

The delegation will participate in the forthcoming international seminar of democratic and progressive forces on struggle for peace and social progress which will be held in Kabul.

The delegation met with Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of Politburo of the PDPA CC and president of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA here today. They discussed about the expansion of existing friendly relations between the two fronts.

Reports on All-India Congress-I Committee Meetings

Resolution on Minorities

BK210410 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The All-India Congress-I Committee [AICC-I] has expressed deep concern over communal incidents in which many precious lives have been lost. In a resolution on minorities adopted last night at its Bombay session, the AICC-I pointed out that such incidents are a blot on the fair name of our country. It said India of our dreams can survive and prosper only if Muslims, Sikhs, and other minorities can live in absolute safety and confidence.

The AICC-I has urged the government to implement the prime minister's directions on preventing communal incidents and dealing firmly with them. It has recommended that officials in charge of law and order should be held responsible unless they prove that they had acted with diligence in preventing and controlling communal riots. It also called for constant efforts to ensure the fullest participation of Muslims and other minority groups in the national life. The committee recommended that the minorities should be represented adequately in the recruitment of cadres enforcing law and order.

Sitting late last night, the AICC-I adopted two other resolutions — one on science and technology and the other on the successful conduct of the Asian Games. Moving the resolution on science and technology, Mr Shiv Raj Patil said it is because of the dedicated work of the Indian scientists that the country could acieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains production and in other fields such as atomic energy and space technology. The resolution was seconded by Mr Panikkar. The resolution affirms India's commitment to the use of atomic energy only for peaceful purposes and urged the government to go ahead with the space program. The committee also welcomed the setting up of a department of ocean development for exploitation of marine resources.

International Situation Discussed

BK211257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] The All-India Congress-I Committee [AICC-I] has called upon all peace-loving people of the world to make a common cause in pursuing the goal of general disarmament. Its resolution on the international situation says that durable peace is linked with equitable international economic relations. It has strongly supported the Nonaligned Movement's call for a world conference on money and finance and the new economic order. The resolution was adopted unanimously at the AICC-I session today. It was moved by Mr Shanker Dayal Sharma and seconded by Mr R.L. Bhatia.

Replying to the debate, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao said that the proposals of the Nonaligned Movement on disarmament and informal talks between the heads of state were constructive and relevant. He deplored the apathy of developed nations toward the less fortunate countries. Mr Rao said that the case of Palestinians is just and fair. India has supported them and will continue to support them. He said we do not want any difficulty with any of our neighbors, but India cannot subordinate its interests to those of others.

Participating in the debate on the resolution, R. Venkataraman said that the country will have to be vigilant and remain in a state of preparedness to defend its freedom. This is particularly so when Pakistan is being armed to the teeth with lethal weapons on a large scale by the United States and its Western allies. He reiterated that India wants good neighboorly relations with Pakistan, but pointed out that India cannot remain oblivious to what is going on in that country. Mr Venkataraman said that the recent attitude of China was rather disturbing. However, India wishes to have good relations with that country. The border problems may be solved through bilateral talks, he added.

Mr J.K. Jain, member of parliament, said that the people of India would not allow outside powers to alienate any part of the country. The others who took part in the debate included Mrs Margaret Alva, Dr Rafiq Zakaria, Mr B.A. Desai, and Mr (R.S. Peron).

Referring to the developments in Pakistan, the resolution says that, coupled with an increase in nuclear capability, the growing buildup of armaments there is a matter of profound concern for India. The AICC-I hopes that Pakistan will realize that peace and friendship and cooperation with India is in its own interest.

It expressed concern and anguish at the recent events in Sri Lanka. Though the developments are an internal matter for the government of Sri Lanka, India cannot ignore the massacre and wanton acts of vandalism on the island.

The resolution supports the freedom struggle of the people of Namibia and particularly mentions the great champion of the freedom struggle Mr Nelson Mandella, who is languishing behind bars.

On West Asia, the AICC-I says that India should continue to support the just cause of the Palestinian people. It also calls for a speedy end to the tragic and wasteful war between Iran and Iraq.

Reiterating its faith in the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, the AICC-I expressed confidence that the movement will continue to grow and will serve as a beacon of hope in the encircling gloom the world over. In this context, the committee has deeply appreciated the prime minister's initiative in organizing the consultations at the United Nations — the first of its kind in recent years, for peace and development and conducting them with finesse and effectiveness.

The AICC-I session is now discussing the economic resolution. It has expressed confidence that the challenges which lie ahead on the economic front will be met successfully with the cooperation of the people, and the country will achieve the objective of growth with social justice. It says that the price situation continues to demand utmost vigilance. There is the need to build up large buffer stock of foodgrains and improve the effectiveness of the public distribution system.

The resolution notes with satisfaction that the government adopted suitable fiscal and monetary policies in the current year to keep the rate of inflation under cntrol. Wheat production has been a record of 42.5 million tons and procurement for the public distribution system has already crossed the previous high of 8.14 million tons.

The resolution was moved by Mr S.V. Chavan and seconded Mr V.C. Shukla. The debate was continuing when last report came in.

Gandhi's Linking of Conclave, Violence Scored
BK201629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, has refuted Mrs Gandhi's allegation that there was a nexus between the Srinagar conclave and the wave of violence in Punjab and elsewhere. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said that even before the conclave violent incidents had taken place.

On center-state relations, he pointed out that the final statement issued at Srinagar spoke of a strong union and strengthening of national unity.

Punjab Police Continue Combing Operations
BK201605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Punjab police for the second day today continued combing operations in some villages of Amritsar District to search for illicit arms and to apprehend undesirable elements. Stating this in Chandigarh today, the inspector general of police for law and order, Mr P.S. Bhinder, said the police today carried out similar operations in some villages of Kapurtola District also. He said the police recovered 3 countrymade pistols, 1 double barrel gun, and 60 pieces of ammunition of different types during yesterday's combing operations. Five persons were arrested in this connection. The details of seizure and arrest during today's operations are still awaited.

13 Killed, 109 Injured in Punjab Train Crash
BK210312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] In Punjab, 13 people were killed and 109 injured when the 51 UP Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Express derailed at Govindgarh, near Ambala, shortly after midnight last night. A Northern Railway spokesman said according to information received in New Delhi, the accident occurred because of removal of fish-plates. Relief trains from Ambala and Ludhiana have reached the accident site. A relief train from Delhi is on its way and senior officials of the Northern Railway have rushed to the accident site. Our Patiala correspondent (Bhushan Sarandi), who visited the accident site early this morning, reports that the victims were mostly laborers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh who were sitting on the roof of the train. A railway spokesman told our correspondent that the stranded passengers have been sent to Ludhiana and Ambala.

In Amritsar, one miscreant was killed when he and four others after looting a jewelry shop exchanged fire with a Central Reserve Police Force patrolling party. Another miscreant was arrested by the patrolling party while three others escaped. According to the inspector general of police, law and order, Mr P.S. Bhinder, the whole of the booty was recovered. The police suspect the miscreants are extremists.

PRC Foreign Minister Stops Over En Route to Oman
BK210444 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, has said China wholeheartedly supports Pakistan's efforts for an early solution of the Afghanistan problem.

In an interview in Karachi today, he said while in New York to attend the 38th session of the UN General Assembly, he met a number of foreign ministers, the majority of whom holds the view that the Soviet Union should withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan. He called on the international community to continue to exert its pressure on the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan.

He said he had an extensive exchange of views with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, this morning on the current international situation following the 38th General Assembly session. He said they had identical and common views on all major world issues including the tense situation between the East and West, withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, and they had a mutual desire to see an early end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Referring to bilateral relations, Mr Wu Xueqian said there was an extensive scope to enlarge relations in a number of fields. In the political field, leaders of the two countries could have frequent exchange of views on various subjects to brief each other on different topics. Similarly, he said, in the economic and trade fields, Pakistan and China could further strengthen cooperation. In fact, there are many projects presently being implemented in these areas. In the cultural field, they can further expand the exchanges. The Chinese foreign minister, who stopped over in Karachi on his way from Istanbul to Oman, later attended a luncheon hosted in his honor by Sahabzada Yaqub Kahn. Mr Wu Wueqian has now left Karachi for Oman.

Comoran Minister Ends Visit; Communique Issued
BK210520 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistan and Comoros have expressed satisfaction at the increasing cooperation between the two countries in the bilateral field as well as their close cooperation in international forums. They have resolved to work together for the realization of their common objectives.

This has been stated in a joint communique issued this afternoon in Islamabad at the end of the official visit to Pakistan by the foreign minister of Comoros, Mr Said Kafe. They expressed their keen desire to consolidate further their technological and other cooperation in various fields. It was agreed to explore the possibility of expanding the present level of trade between the two countries. The Comoros expressed its desire to import rice from Pakistan, to which Pakistan agreed. The Comoros foreign minister extended an invitation to the foreign [words indistinct] accepted.

Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this afternoon before his departure for Jidda, the Comoros foreign minister, Mr Said Kafe, said a Pakistan delegation would shortly visit his country to identify the possible areas of cooperation in various fields, particularly agriculture and industry. He said during his meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the Pakistan president expressed the desire to further consolidate relations between the two countries. The Comoros foreign minister expressed full support for the process of Islamization in Pakistan.

Zia Meets With Progressive People's Party Delegation
BK201602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] A nine-member delegation of the defunct Progressive People's Party led by Maulana Qausar Niazi called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. During the meeting, the president's 12 August program and important national issues were discussed. The president was assisted in the talks by the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq; the interior minister, Mahmud a Haroon; and Lieutenant General K.M. Arif.

Delhi Reports Opposition Appeal to Nonaligned
BK201615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Pakistan's main political parties have urged the Nonaligned Movement to bring political and moral pressure on President Ziaul Haq to restore human rights in that country. A member of the steering committee of the Pakistan People's Party and former law minister, Mr Hafiz Pirzada, said in London that a letter had been addressed on behalf of the opposition parties to Mrs Gandhi in her capacity as chairperson of the movement. The letter refers to the killings of people in Sind and widespread arrests and flogging all over Pakistan since the current agitation against the martial law was launched. Similar appeals have been sent to the UN secretary general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, and some heads of state and government.

Meanwhile, a leader of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, Mr Wali Khan, who was under house arrest, has been put under detention in a rest house near Peshawar.

According to a UNITED NEWS OF INDIA report, a former federal minister of Pakistan, Lieutenant General Chishti, has condemned the abrogation of the country's 1973 Constitution. He is reported to have said that martial law was imposed in 1977 to restore peace in the country and to transfer power to the elected representatives within 90 days. He demanded holding of elections under neutral observers.

Press Note Issued on Operations Against 'Bandits'
BK201635 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] A press note issued by the Nawabshah deputy commissioner says that as a result of operations launched against the bandits in the district yesterday, about five shotguns, revolvers, and some inflammable material have been recovered from

(Nafat) village, thus raising the number of unlicensed firearms recovered from this village to 33. In response to the warning issued by the local administration in this connection, the people of the nearby villages, (Punam Khan Chanve) and (Kirti Khan Chanve), have surrendered to the authorities 32 unlicensed firearms, which include rifles, shotguns, and revolvers.

The press note further says that of the people arrested so far, 49 are [words indistinct] who were wanted by the local police in connection with various serious crimes.

Summary Military Court Sentences 5 to Hard Labor

BK210325 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] A summary military court in Sanghar has sentenced 5 people to 1 year's hard labor each under martial law regulations on charges of demonstrating and raising anticountry solgans. Four of them were also fined.

BANGLADESH

Talks on Sharing Tista River Waters Begin

BK201335 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] The Bangladesh-India secretarial level talks on the sharing of the Tista river waters began in Dhaka this morning. The irrigation secretaries of both countries are leading their respective country's delegation. The talks, which will last for 2 days, will finalize the draft and ad hoc agreement on the sharing of the Tista waters.

It may be mentioned that the two sides reached an ad hoc agreement on sharing of the Tista waters at the 25th meeting of the Bangladesh-India joint river commission [JRC] held in Dhaka in July this year. In this meeting,the JRC formed a Tista water sharing committee under the irrigation secretaries of the two countries for the drafting of the agreement and placing it before the ministerial level joint river commission within 90 days. In the last meeting of the JRC, both countries agreed to allot 39 percent to India, 36 percent to Bangladesh, and to keep the remaining 25 percent unallotted.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Explains Efforts To Solve Tamil Issue

BK211234 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] President Jayewardene, who inaugurated the roundtable conference on the Tamil Issue, has explained the various actions so far taken by the government to find the solution to the problems of the Tamil population. The United National Party [UNP] when it came to power, had pledged to take all possible steps to remedy the grievances of the Tamils. The president said that the government had not summoned an all-party conference because it had appointed a parliamentary select committee to discuss constitutional changes.

Mr Jayewardene, however, recalled that the government implemented by legislation the proposals outlined in the UNP manifesto. The Tamil United Liberation Front, which cooperated with the government until the end of last year, was not satisfied with the rate of progress but did accept what the government was doing. The president said that he intended to place before a roundtable conference that he would fully implement the UNP manifesto proposals, and that if the terrorists were prepared to lay down their arms, he would consider an amnesty. He would also consider withdrawing the terrorists act and the Army from the north provided that the claim for a separate state was abandoned.

After the riots, the government decided that legislation should be brought banning the claim for a separate state. This has been done and those who support that principle cannot continue to be members of Parliament or seek to be members of Parliament in the future.

Delhi Reports 11 Tamil Parliamentarians Lose Seats

BK210317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 11 members of the opposition Tamil United Liberation Front have lost their parliamentary seats. This follows their failure to take a pledge against separatism as required under a recent amendement to the Constitution.

Minister Warns of New Terrorist Conspiracy

BK201439 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali today warned of the new conspiracy by northern terrorists to stage, what he called, another July violence. This, the minister said, was to be staged with the help of accomplices in the south through an extreme provocative campaign.

The minister was addressing students from the Gampaha District, who attained university entrance. He said that a part of the conspiracy was to pit the Sinhalese against the Muslims and raise it to the level of an international agitation [word indistinct] the country to make Sri Lanka another Cyprus.

Mr Athulathmudali told the students, who gathered at the Bandaranaike Maha Vidyalaya [university] at Gampaha, that under no circumstances should the people be provoked and play themselves into the hands of northern terrorists.

Mr Athulathmudali appealed to the people to not be provoked by ill talks and statements made and disseminated because if the people fell victim to such provocations, the fight against northern terrorism would not be won.

The minister requested the people to have confidence in the government which is tackling the terrorist problem. It has the [words indistinct] to deal with the terrorist ploy which individuals could not possibly have.

Spokesman Reacts to Reagan, Shultz Remarks on Hormuz
LD202219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a spokesman for our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented on the recent remarks made by President Reagan concerning the possibility of closing the Strait of Hormuz. The spokesman said: America, aware of the Islamic Republic of Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz if Iran's vital interests were threatened, is trying with such intimidations to shake the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm decision to defend its interests. This comes against the background that the Islamic Republic of Iran, aware of imperialist America's hostility toward the Islamic Revolution, has made its decision. The launching of the Val-Fajr IV operation and its victories indicate that intimidation by America and the other powers would have no effect on our morale and determination.

Commenting on remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who said that America would abandon its neutral stand if the Strait of Hormuz were to be closed and would adopt a policy supporting Iraq, our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said: We do not consider America to be neutral. We consider it to be the main element behind Iraq's aggression. The aggression which the Iraqi Ba'thist regime launched against our Muslim nation, together with the support it received from the region's reactionaries, was the outcome of conspiracies by the superpowers, especially the United States. America's claim of neutrality regarding Iraq's offensive was basically baseless. America can only make its support for Iraq more open, which in any case would have no effect on the war's trend. It would only take away the cover of neutrality from America's aggressive face.

Velayati Calls Mubarak's Statement 'Propagandistic'
GF201630 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA — The unwavering stance adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran leaves no room for the bogus gestures of adventurism recently aired by the ruling president of Egypt, said Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

Commenting on the statement of Husni Mubarak to the effect that in case of closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Egypt will intervene militarily, Velayati said that such attempts were propagandistic and aimed at boosting the weakened morale of the Iraqi regime and the reactionaries of the region.

Ever since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war, he added, Egypt, by sending military aids to the Iraqi regime, has fulfilled parts of its obligations towards the United States. Such stance by a government like that of Egypt is not surprising to us, Velayati said. The irony is that a government (Egypt) which claims to be encountering the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the signing of the shameful treaty of Camp David, culmination of struggle of Muslim people of Egypt and economic and social problems, has not even been able to cope with its domestic problems.

At the end he added that if Husni Mubarak was a true supporter of Arabs, he should then refrain from trying to bring the Arab governments closer to the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Iraqis Urged 'To Result to Revolution, Struggle'
GF201400 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brothers in the Iraqi Armed Forces, faithful children of Iraq, our kinsmen and brothers in the Iraq of Islam: The tyrant of Iraq — after having destroyed the Iraqi economy, killed the elite of its children, and made tens of thousands of Iraqis homeless in order to satisfy his lusts and to implement the orders of his leaders, the Americansin the Black House — began to play his last card and to pretend to be willing to end the war and thus to have time to confront your blessed uprising and to strengthen his effete throne. So we call on you, the children of 'Ali and Hoseyn, to resort to revolution and to struggle. The opportunity is at hand and the throne of the traitor Saddam shakes as a result of the blows of your brethren the mujahidin, where the planes of Isla n strafe the strongholds of infidelity in Iraq.

The blessed soldiers of Islam are coming to you. Do chase out the remnants of the traitor criminals and the followers of the criminal Saddam. Make use of the weapons that are stacked in the police stations and the organizations of the surrogate regime. Form local committees for the command of the armed military operations.

This is the optimum time, so work cannot be postponed. All the conditions are available for avenging the blessed martyrs of Islam and for terminating corruption and shame in the Iraq of Hoseyn. Remember well the crimes of the criminal regime in the year 1963 and the disasters it brought to Iraq. Remember the crimes and disasters of its black advent in 1968. Let your ultimate goal be the toppling of this murderer and criminal and establishing God's regime in Iraq.

Do not lag. Go ahead in the execution of the nation's hopes so that history will thank you proudly as it does mention your ancestors in the 1920 revolution, in Iraq's unheavals and revolutions. Our audacious people, proceed to the revolution. Blessed children of Islam, proceed to struggle. Victory will ally itself with the revolutionaries. Victory comes only from God.

Aims of Val-Fajr IV Operations Explained

Arabic Commentary
GF202030 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] People have said that Islamic Iran does not have any energy left today to resume the war, that the Muslim people in

Iran have decided to (?give up) the war, and that the Islamic forces began to crumble when they heard about the Super Etendard planes. The answer was decisive to all these charges. The answer was Val-Fajr IV which spreads its light on the mountains and the valleys.

Let international arrogance know whom it is facing today. They are facing those who are not scared of the Super Etendard planes or the Exocet missiles, they are facing those who are not scared of all the armies of the world. They are not scared of death because for them martyrdom is sweeter than honey.

They are not only fighting Saddam, but also the French weapons, the U.S. (?dollar), and the Russian rockets and arms which came from here and there — from Egypt, Sudan, and Somalia. They united their desires and peoples to fight as a Muslim people against those who have committed murder.

The enemy should receive response for its successive hostilities against the innocent civilians in Dezful, Andimeshk,and Marivan. It is not logical to allow an evil gang to do as it wishes without deterrent and punishment.

Ground Forces Commander

GF201800 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Hazmeh Seyyed-o Shohada Hq, Oct. 20, IRNA — Commenting on the situation of the operational theatre of the fourth stage of Val Fajr, and the advancement of the Islamic combatants, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, commander of the Islamic Republic ground forces said that at this stage of the operation the Islamic combatants achieved three main objectives by capturing and securing the Kasri, Laleh-Hamzeh and Kangarak Heights.

Continuing, Colonel Shirazi added that the purging operations of the dispersed enemy forces in the region were still in progress. Adding, he said that at the early hours of the successful offensive the enemy artillery units were compelled to retreat.

Meanwhile, battle with enemy forces was still continuing in the Garmak Heights, the fourth target of the operation, which once captured would enbale the Islamic forces to join with the Iranian combatants operating on the Maru Heights in the region of Marivan. The Islamic combatants also suceeded in capturing the Haft Tavamand Heights in the said region, he added. Colonel Shirazi further said that the victorious operation was carried out [words indistinct] the south eastern [words indistinct] to the Kasri Heights in the north western region was still continuing.

The latest report reaching here at 09:00 hours today said that the Garmak Heights fell into the hands of the Islamic forces. Also the IRGC engineering group successfully crossed over the Laleh-Hamzeh Pass and set up positions at the pass entry.

Joint Headquarters Issues Communiques on Val-Fajr IV

Communique No 2

LD201219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Communique No 2 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim nation and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation: To put an end to the warmongering of the domestic agents of world blasphemy and to crush the armed insurgents dependent upon world arrogance, the brave and self-sacrificing children of the land of the Islamic Revolution followed the victorious operations in Sar Dasht last night with a series of coordinated and successful operations under the command of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada, headquarters of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The joint forces attacked the counterrevolutionaries in the border areas of Baneh and Marivan, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the armed insurgents and forces of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq who had engaged in operations against the forces of Islam in support of the counterrevolutionaries.

The fighters of Islam composed of the heroic personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the self-sacrificing members of the Revolution Guards Corps and the mobilization units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Muslim Kurdish fighters in these successful operations in the Baneh and Marivan border areas succeeded in killing or wounding more than 400 armed insurgents and forces of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq. They also set fire to a number of their personnel carriers and destroyed a large quantity of enemy weapons and ammunitions. In these operations, which smashed a large part of the organization of armed insurgents, one Iraqi helicopter which had entered the operational zones in support of the armed insurgents was hit by the fire of the forces of Islam and was brought down. All its crew including one Iraqi colonel were killed. With reliance upon the eternal power of God, the fighters of Islam are continuing their battle against the agents of world blasphemy and the members of the vile minigroups. They will deliver their powerful blows against the declining and decrepit enemy until all the roots of corruption in Kordestan and their Zionist backers are destroyed.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed Ash-shohada base, headquarters for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 3

LD201249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Communique No 3 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim nation, martyr-nurturing nation of Iran: The combative

and mighty combatants of Islam, those zealous soldiers of the lord of the ages and the guardians of the ideology of the Koran,attacked the positions of counterrevolutionaries affiliated with world arrogance and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on them in the Sar Dasht, Marivan, and Baneh region at 2400 last night. To cut communications between the counterrevolutionaries and the Zionist enemy, to annihilate extensively enemy forces in the operational theater, to take the border towns of the Islamic homeland — especially Marivan — out of enemy firing range, to liberate important, strategic heights in the region northwest of Marivan, and to give a decisive answer to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime of Baghdad — who savagely subjected the Muslim people of Kordestan to air and artillery attacks — as well as to warn the protectors of the criminal regime ruling over Baghdad — the joint forces commenced Val-Fajr IV, codenamed "O God, O God, O God," and once again demonstrated the infinite might of the dear Islam and the vulnerability of the forces of blasphemy.

Since the early hours of this morning, the combatants of Islam staged a quick offensive against the positions of the Zionist enemy southwest of Baneh and northwest of Marivan border regions, mopped up the (Shiler) bulge [pishrafpegi] completely, killed hundreds of enemy personnel, and destroyed large quantities of enemy equipment and supplies.

The forces of Islam also besieged important heights in the region. At present, severe clashes are in progress for the purpose of liberating predetermined targets deep inside Iraqi territory.

By relying on God's help and the prayers of Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic nation, the combatants of Islam continue their relentless battle against the criminal enemy and are advancing with the hope of final victory.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, center of joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 4

LD201805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Communique No 4 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The brave combatants of Islam, inspired by the school of the 'Ashura of Aba 'Abdallah al-Husayn, peace be upon him, began the Val-Fajr IV operations codenamed, "O God, O God, O God," at midnight last night, with the aim of: cutting contacts between counterrevolutionaries and the internal agents of world arrogance with the Baghdad Zionist regime, destroying the enemy forces on a massive scale in the operational zone, taking the border towns of the Islamic homeland out of the range of enemy fire, capturing important and strategic heights northwest of Marivan, giving a decisive reply to the crimes committed by the Baghdad Zionist regime, which savagely brings the Muslim people of Kordestan under its air and artillery attacks, and giving a warning to the supporters of the Zionist Saddam regime.

Our forces attacked the Zionist enemy's positions in an area northwest of Marivan, situated south of the Shiler River, deep inside Iraqi territory. By showing the limitless power of beloved Islam, they dealt formidable blows to the criminal enemy.

During these victorious operations, the forces of Islam managed to completely destroy the 2d Battalion of the 29th Mountain Infantry Brigade and the 7th Independent Commando Infantry Battalion and the 605th Infantry Brigade. They completely liberated the Laleh Hamreh mountain range, Summit 1,805, Kangarak Mountain, Height 1,605, Lari Mountain, and the Garmak Heights and hoisted the flag of Islam over the aforesaid heights.

During these operations, two enemy tank companies were smashed and more than 20 enemy tanks were destroyed. Three enemy helicopters were shot down and destroyed by the fire of the powerful forces of Islam. Since the beginning of these operations, more than 30 enemy bases in the operation region have been pounded so far and more than 2,000 enemy forces have been killed or wounded. Dozens of them have been taken prisoner by the forces of Islam. A large numbers of tools and equipment belonging to the Zionist enemy were destroyed, also large numbers were seized intact by the powerful combatants.

The powerful combatants of Islam deployed in the liberated regions are now continuing to consolidate their positions.

The zealous sons of the hezbollahi, relying on the endless divine power and on the sincere prayers of the martyr-nurturing nation to the Almighty, are continuing the battle against the enemies of Islam until final victory.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 5

GF210749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0645 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Communique No 5 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to you, fighting companions of the prophet of God! Blessings on you, faithful associates of Abu 'Abdallah al-Hoseyn,who have responded to the call to victory and fortitude of Hoseyn with a crushing riposte under the banner of Towhid and to the invigorating call of the imam of the Islamic nation and the commander of the Armed Forces, Khomeyni the great, and have risen to the defense of the sacred Islamic Revolution.

Islamic nation, martyr-nurturing nation, the mighty combatants of the Islamic forces continue the successful Val-Fajr IV operations along the more than 150-km front from Sar Dasht to Marivan and, with their relentless battle deep in Iraqi territory, are inflicting deadly blows on the decrepit form of world blasphemy. The forces of Islam continue the Val-Fajr IV operations with the liberation of some important heights northeast of Mari-

van 15 km within Iraqi territory and some other strategic heights in the border strip of Sar Dasht. They have destroyed a large section of the enemy's forces and have been successful in destroying besides Garrison No 2, the mountain Brigade No 29, Infantry Commando Battalion No 7, Brigade No 605, the 3d Battalion of Brigade No 504 of Iraq, and in killing and wounding more than 2,800 of the infidel troops, among whom are many officers, including senior Iraqi officers.

Similarly, more than 210 enemy soldiers have fallen captive to the forces of Islam and 15 posts of the enemy deep in Iraqi territory have been destroyed by the strong Islamic forces. Hence, the total number of enemy posts destroyed during the course of the Val-Fajr IV operations is more than 45.

The headquarters of Brigade No 605 of Iraq, the inhabitants of which have been killed or wounded, has fallen into the hands of the freedom-fighting forces of Islam. Our heroic combatants have also destroyed 80 armored cars, 40 tanks, and personnel carriers of the enemy and have taken a vast quantity of their equipment as booty during the course of these operations.

The able forces of Islam have liberated the important heights of (Maro) in addition to the heights of (Laleh Hamreh), Garmak, (Kangarak), and (Kiuleri) and have set themselves up on the peaks of heights in Sar Dasht. Also, the vigorous forces of Islam have liberated more than 48 villages in the area following the occupation of some important heights as well as the border highway of Sar Dasht-Baneh and the (Choman) base and highway located in the (Bizhosaleh) axis 10 km of which have completely been purged of the filth of the agents of world oppression.

The forces of Islam continue their hallowed battle on the 150-km front from Sar Dasht to Marivan against the Zionist occupationist regime of Baghdad and the mercenary agents of world blasphemy and in Marivan, 15 km within Iraqi territory, are inflicting decisive blows on the criminal enemy.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, centerof the joint operations of the Muslims.

We are desirous of a peace and security in the area, to the advantage of the Muslim nations. Therefore, we will continue our defensive and just holy war for our rights until the attainment of the conditions which have been announced by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran!

Iraqi Counteroffensive 'Totally Crushed'

LD210836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0805 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear compatriots, please may I have your attention. The combatants of Islam have repelled the enemy's counteroffensive on captured positions in the Val-Fajr IV operational sector.

According to reports by IRNA correspondents from the front, at dawn today the Zionist Saddam's troops made an effort to recapture positions lost during the Val-Fajr IV operation by launching a counteroffensive after assembling their scattered troops. The enemy used a large number of heavy armored weapons but its counteroffensive was totally crushed due to the full awareness of the selfless combatants of Islam.

A large number of Ba'thist troops were taken prisoner by the combatants of Islam. By 1100 today, 106 Iraqi POW's were transferred to the rear, making the number of Iraqi POW's transferred behind our lines during the Val-Fajr IV operation total 316.

According to this report, after crushing this defeated counteroffensive, the forces of Islam dispatched patrols in search of enemy troops who are hiding in mountain areas.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,498

LD201734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,498 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The brave warriors of the front of light and the lovers of Husayn's Karbala' continue their holy war in defense of Islam to realize the divine aspirations of the Islamic Revolution. These brave warriors through their remarkable victories are recording epics of love, faith, and devotion on the pages of Islam's history forever.

After the start of the Val-Fajr IV operations, the mighty warriors of Islam succeeded in capturing several strategic heights and several important enemy bases in the border region of Baneh and Marivan. During these operations, a large number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded. At present our combat units, while being engaged with the enemy, pursue their operations and continue to consolidate their own positions in the liberated areas.

The brave heroes of Islam on the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam yesterday opened fire on enemy positions and fortifications and destroyed five trucks carrying Saddamist troops and one of their mortars.

The fire of our combat units on the southern fronts yesterday neutralized operations by the enemy's patrol and reconnaissance groups and halted their engineering activities. During exchanges of fire on the banks of the Arvand Rud, five enemy trenches on the other side of the river were destroyed and several Iraqi troops were killed.

The enemy's long-range artillery fire on the residential districts of Abadan yesterday damaged four houses and an administrative building.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Operations Against 'Counterrevolutionaries' Cited

LD201717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] According to the latest report received from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, the joint operational command headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, simultaneously with the Val-Fajr IV operation, the able Islamic combatants in Baneh and Marivan region are continuing to crush counterrevoutionaries and armed insurgents in the border region of Sar Dasht.

This report says that the Islamic combatants have succeeded in completely clearing the important road of Sar Dasht-Baneh and the border post of Choman situated on the (Beyzhveh)-Salih axis, which is 10 km long. In addition to the strategic heights and 18 villages cleared today, another 30 villages have been cleared in this region from the filthy presence of foreign mercenaries. During these operations, the border post of (Qal'eh Rasht), which had been in the control of the insurgents linked to the world arrogance since the victory of the Islamic Revolution was liberated by the forces of Islam.

'Hot Pursuit' Continues

LD202024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The combat forces of Islam, comprising the basiji and tribal forces and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, successfully continue their overall mopping-up operations, which they began 48 hours ago, in the western regions of the country from Sar Dasht to Marivan. According to IRNA, so far in the course of these operations, a large number of hamlets have been liberated. Before the operations, these hamlets were under control of the counterrevolutionaries and had been turned into ruins among the trees. With the help of the committed and oppressed native inhabitants of the area, the counter revolutionaries were either killed or arrested.

A report from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada base indicates that at present a group of the counterrevolutionaries has crossed the mountainous and border regions and has fled deep inside Iraqi territory, but the popular forces of Islam are in hot pursuit of these counterrevolutionaries.

Dozens of enemies of the Islamic Revolution have been killed to date in the border areas or deep inside Iraqi territory, which is their refuge. Large quantities of information, documents, and military equipment of the counterrevolutionaries have been either seized or destroyed.

On the basis of the latest report, the mopping-up operations are continuing and the mighty Islamic combatants with the assistance of the oppressed people of the region are going to destroy all enemy positions and equipment after the victory. The same report indicates that a large number of elements of the mini groups have presented themselves to the warriors of Islam and have returned to the kind embrace of Islam.

IRNA Account

GF201750 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Sar Dasht, Oct. 20, IRNA — Over 20 bases in the south western region of Sar Dasht, belonging to the splinter group affiliated to the world expansionists, the political, military and the logistical organisation of the counterrevolution in the region were totally crushed by the Islamic forces.

The Islamic combatants by taking over the Dolmir Heights and the Khaman Pass, brought under control another vital part of the Iran-Iraq border road.

During their operation launched in the early hours of Tuesday, the Islamic combatants while purging various villages, heights and plains, and Baraj which is one of the most vital logistical centers of the enemy and also the point of entry for smuggled goods was also captured, while another 14 kms. of Kani Rash Road was purged of hostile forces by the Islamic troops.

The Islamic forces who launched their operation from two axes in Baneh and Sar Dasht, along the heights of Do-Paz, Laklak, Seer and Bileece [place names as received], succeeded in wiping out all anti-revolutionaries bases in the region.

A military informed source, commenting about the operation, told IRNA that the operation launched in the region was the biggest ever launched after the successful operations in Alvatan region. He pointed out that the Islamic forces by stationing themselves in the captured positions would be able to control and observe the Iraqi forces movements in the cities of Qaleh-Dizeh, Changavi, and Gonaveh inside Iraq.

After the purging of armed rebels in the region of Alan and the southwestern villages of Sar Dasht, the Muslim Kurds who had been under the suppressive control of the insurgents received the Islamic forces warmly, while the remnants of the rebel forces fled to the other side of the border.

The casualities and losses inflicted on the anti-revolutionary grouplets in the operation were reported to be heavy, but actual figures were not immediately available.

Free Voice of Iran Describes Fighting in Kordestan

GF210501 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Excerpt] According to the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, the office of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in Paris issued a communique today reporting that widespread fighting is continuing in Iranian Kordestan, in the regions of Baneh and Sar Dasht. According to the latest reports received, a second heavy attack by Khomeyni forces was staged in the Sar Dasht region last night in order to capture strategic positions in Homeyl. An attack by Khomeyni forces to capture other positions in the Baneh region was neutralized by the peshmergas of the Kurdish Party and the peshmergas of the Mojahed-e Khalq. Thus the attacks by the Khomeyni forces against the Kurdish fighters have gained nothing so far. According to these reports, more than 500 Khomeyni soldiers have been killed in clashes in recent days and his forces

have lost much materiel and equipment, like light weapons, which have fallen into the hands of the Kurdish peshmerga soldiers.

In this connection, the radio of the Islamic Republic has said that the Khomeyni forces have mounted a new offensive called Val-Fajr IV against the Kurdish fighters and the Iraqi forces in the Sar Dasht and Baneh region and has claimed that Khomeyni forces have captured strategic heights of (Hanimal) Lak Lak Homeyl, (Ichri), (Kohe Rostomalan), and certain other heights.

Prime Minister Continues Tour of Gilan Province

Speaks on Future of Revolution

GF201600 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Rasht, Oct. 20, IRNA — Powers of West and East have realised that if the Islamic revolution of Iran maintained its momentum and stood on its own feet, the political state of affairs in the Middle East would undergo dramatic changes, said Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi here Wednesday night.

Speaking to a large crowd of local people, the prime minister further added that ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, power of West and East had been mobilised against it. For the Islamic revolution had put an end to interests of these powers in Iran, he added.

The prime minister who is on a visit to discuss problems of the Gilan Province, further added that the Islamic revolution of Iran has echoed the call of unity throughout the world and had led to well being of the Muslims. One of the bi-products of the Islamic revolution of Iran, he continued, was thwarting of all vicious plots and also making possible the revolutionary execution of Sadat of Egypt.

Annullment of these plots, he said, made it clear that there were many in the Islamic world who wanted to listen to Imam Khomeyni and act as supporters of the Islamic revolution of Iran. Therefore, the world mass media were mobilised to encounter the Islamic revolution of Iran, he added.

In another part of his speech Musavi, referring to the military pacts of U.S. imperialism such as NATO and CENTO, said that they had not yet been able to properly analyse the impact of the Islamic revolution of Iran on these pacts.

Comments on New Offensive

GF201632 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Oct. 20, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi currently on a visit to Gilan Province to look into the people's problems and difficulties there, this morning attended a morning ceremony held jointly by the military and disciplinary forces of the province at Rasht marine garrison compound.

Musavi, referring to the extensive operations launched in the northwestern region Wednesday, said that the operations were to establish divine values which would lead to emancipation of oppressed peoples of the world, who having closed their ranks, could defeat the superpowers as well as their supercilious helots.

In other part of his speech, the premier said the military, political, social and cultural criteria offered by the Islamic revolution of Iran would further embarrass and confound the expansionists, as these criteria stemmed from the minds and hearts of the tortured and persecuted peoples of the region and the world.

Musavi further said that the country's enemies presently enjoyed an over-all support from world big powers and their supercilious governments. Both East and West have come out in an all-out support for tottering regime of Saddam, while the Islamic Republic of Iran was surrounded by the reactionary regimes of the region, and was exposed to various plots and intrigues from the East and West.

Arming the Iraqi Army with different sophisticated weapons through superpowers and their agents is nothing but a manifestation of this global movement designed to prop up the ailing regime of Saddam, he said. Concluding, the prime minister said that despite all problems that any nation going through a revolution would confront, the Islamic combatants of Iran so far had inflicted crushing blows upon the regime of Saddam and its Eastern and Western supporters.

Departs Rasht for Other Towns

GF201810 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 20 Oct 83

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA — Prime Minister Musavi of the Islamic Republic of Iran who is visiting the northern province of Gilan arrived in Kolaleh from Rasht Thursday morning and was welcomed by the Friday prayers leader and the mayor of the village.

After the ceremonies the prime minister left the village for the town of Gonbad-e Qabus in order to take part in a meeting with the officials of the town together with the Shi'ite and Sunni ulema to discuss issues and problems of the region.

Later on the premier delivered a speech in the great prayer ground of the town saying that the voice of the Islamic revolution had reached all corners of the world and the plots of the enemies of Islam to create disorder in the area had been neutralised.

He said that the big powers exploited every means in order to weaken and eventually destroy the Islamic revolution and to that end, they would not wince at any intrigue they could concoct.

The prime minister then wondered as to why the arrogant imperialistic powers should equip Iraq with nine-metre long missiles and most modern sophisticated planes and other weaponry, and concluded that the enemies of Islam were afraid of the unity between the Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims and the leadership of the Islamic revolution of Iran.